

UOS reference number

ST0773_V0.0

Title of occupation

Optometrist (degree)

Core and options

No

Resubmission

No

Level of occupation

Level 7

Route

Health and science

Typical duration of apprenticeship

48 months

Target date for approval

31 May 2021

Occupational profile

Summary

This occupation is found in the health sector. Optometrists are predominantly employed in private practice and work in the community seeing patients in high street practices, care homes or their own homes. Optometrists may also be found working in hospitals seeing patients in out-patient clinics. Optometrists can also be employed in industry (for example contact lens companies) and there may be opportunity for employment in higher education and research departments.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to examine the eyes for defects in sight, ocular diseases and problems related to general health. Optometrists are primary healthcare specialists trained in the detection, diagnosis and management of ocular disease and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system. They provide the majority of first line eye care and are responsible for a significant proportion of ocular referrals to the secondary eye care sector eg hospitals. All Optometrists practising in the UK must be registered with the General Optical Council, which is the statutory regulatory body.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with

- Patients, service users and carers
- Other members of the multidisciplinary team including GPs, dispensing opticians, ophthalmologists, orthoptists and optical assistants

- Administration, management and other non-clinical staff like receptionists and retail managers

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for using specialist equipment such as Optical Coherence Tomography scanners and advanced assessment techniques to determine, issue and dispense a corrective spectacle or contact lens prescriptions, tailored to the patient's needs. Optometrists are responsible and accountable for assessing specialist occupations ensuring visual standards are met for public safety e.g. police officers, HGV drivers and pilots. They conduct clinical investigations to detect, recognise, diagnose and manage eye diseases, e.g. cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, age-related macular degeneration and dry eyes. They provide preventative advice on the development of eye disease and may use and supply ophthalmic drugs. Optometrists are required to communicate effectively, in an easy to understand manner, with all patients, carers and other healthcare professionals. They have an awareness of the legal, ethical and financial constraints within which they operate. Optometrists may lead and supervise a team which could include optical assistants and retail managers and can delegate certain tasks to their wider team under supervision. They are responsible for maintaining their knowledge and skills using detailed personal development plans and continued education and training (CET) required to maintain registration and may contribute to the development of others. Optometrists are able to apply the principles of evidence-based practice to their clinical decision making, using research in optometry and vision sciences to translate theory into practice.

Typical job titles

['Optometrist', 'Ophthalmic Optician']

Duty	Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
D1: Practice according to the legal, ethical and professional standards for optometry and in line with scope of own practice and limits of competence	K1, K2, K8	S1, S2, S8	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D2: Work as part of the multi-disciplinary optical team to provide evidence-based and patient-centred care	K3, K6, K11, K12, K14, K28	S3, S6, S11, S12, S14, S28	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D3: Use verbal and non-verbal communication methods and techniques to overcome barriers and meet individuals' preferences, needs and desired outcomes	K15, K16	S15, S16	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D4: Obtain, record and store information related to individuals within your care, keeping information secure and sharing correctly	K7, K13	S7, S13	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D5: Select and conduct diagnostic tests, clinical investigations and assessments of eye health using the correct specialist equipment and techniques	K24, K29, K32	S24, S29, S32	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D6: Analyse and interpret the results of diagnostic tests, clinical investigations and assessments of eye health to determine an appropriate optical management plan	K27, K30	S27, S30	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D7: Issue a corrective prescription and dispense optical devices and drugs	K9, K10	S9, S10	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D8: Promote and protect the health of individuals, providing preventative information, advice and guidance on the potential development of future eye disease and systemic disease	K29, K31, K36	S31, S36	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D9: Maintain the health, safety and security of yourself and others in the workplace by identifying risks and taking appropriate action to keep people safe	K5, K22, K23, K35	S5, S22, S23, S35	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D10: Maintain and further develop your own skills and knowledge and contribute to the development of others by participating in appraisal and continuing education and training (cet)	K17, K18, K19	S17, S18, S19	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D11: Participate in clinical governance and quality improvement activities, including audit and service evaluation	K20, K21, K25, K26	S20, S21, S25, S26	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
D12: Provide leadership and supervision for others in the multidisciplinary optical team	K4, K33, K34	S4, S33, S34	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6

Knowledge

- K1: The legislation, policies, standards, local ways of working and codes of conduct that apply to own role
- K2: The scope of own role, limitations of own competence and who to ask for support
- K3: The principles of a 'duty of care' and 'safeguarding', the signs of abuse and ways to reduce the chances of abuse
- K4: The professional and legal responsibilities of supervision of unregistered colleagues, trainees and students
- K5: Own and others' responsibilities in maintaining health and safety in the workplace
- K6: The principles of equality, diversity and inclusion and the right to complain without prejudice
- K7: The principles of confidentiality and ways to record and store information securely
- K8: The role of carers and the power of attorney
- K9: Systems and procedures associated with the sale and supply of optical appliances
- K10: Systems and procedures for the assessment of services provided within patient consultation and any associated payments
- K11: The principles of 'person-centred care'
- K12: The impact of medical, family and social history of the patient, their personal conscious and unconscious beliefs and cultural factors in managing outcomes
- K13: The principle of consent and actions to take if consent cannot be obtained or is withdrawn
- K14: The availability and accessibility of local healthcare services, eye health and sight loss services and their role in delivering patient care
- K15: Methods to communicate at work and adaptations to reduce barriers to communication
- K16: The signs of discomfort, lack of understanding or inability to give informed consent
- K17: The principles of critical reflection and continuing personal development
- K18: The local systems and processes for appraisal
- K19: The principles and models of mentorship and role-modelling
- K20: Tools and techniques used to gather and evaluate patient feedback
- K21: The principles of clinical governance, service improvement, quality improvement and tools and techniques used in the reflective cycle
- K22: Processes and systems to raise and escalate concerns, including speaking up and protected disclosure, and responsibilities in relation to the health of self and others in the workplace
- K23: The principles of infection, prevention and control and the importance of personal hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- K24: The correct equipment, techniques and procedures used to undertake ocular examination and the ethical principles of prescribing
- K25: The principles of evidence-based practice, and how to critically appraise research and

- other forms of evidence and use them in clinical decision-making and improving practice
- K26: Emerging technological advances in eye health and how they will enhance patient outcomes and service delivery
- K27: Sources and types of diagnostic data used in the analysis of visual function and development a management plan in areas of professional practice in line with scope of practice
- K28: Own role and responsibility in relation to eye health in the multidisciplinary primary care health team
- K29: Legislation and processes in place to dispense, fit and advise on the safe and effective use of spectacles, low-vision aids and other ophthalmic appliances
- K30: The common ocular abnormalities and diseases
- K31: Local referral pathways available and how to access them
- K32: The range of common ophthalmic drugs available and their effect on the eye
- K33: Processes and systems for managing a patient caseload and associated resources in the workplace
- K34: The principles and styles of leadership in relation to role and scope of practice, and the relationship between leadership and management
- K35: The principles of 'duty of candour' and local systems and processes for managing adverse situations and emergencies arising in the workplace
- K36: Contemporary population and public health initiatives and how to use population data and trends to inform practice and service delivery

Skills

- S1: Work in line with legislation, policies, standards, local ways of working and codes of conduct that apply to own role
- S2: Work within the limits of own knowledge and skills and local ways of working, seeking support from others when needed
- S3: Implement duty of care and relevant safeguarding procedures, acting in the best interest of individuals to ensure they do not come to harm
- S4: Supervise others in the workplace including unregistered colleagues, trainees and students
- S5: Maintain a safe and healthy working environment
- S6: Work as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide safe and effective non-discriminatory care which respects patient choice
- S7: Record, report and store information related to individuals securely and in line with local and national policies, maintaining confidentiality
- S8: Maintain professional boundaries with patients and others taking into consideration patient choice and additional needs of vulnerable people
- S9: Work in line with requirements for the sale and supply of optical appliances
- S10: Undertake assessment of services provided within patient consultation and any associated payments

S11: Listen to patients and their carers to ensure they are involved in and are at the heart of decisions made about their care

S12: Consider relevant medical, family and social history of the patient, their personal conscious and unconscious beliefs and cultural factors in managing outcomes

S13: Obtain and ensure continuation of valid patient consent

S14: Refer and signpost to other healthcare services including local eye health and sight loss services in line with patient needs

S15: Communicate with patients, carers, the multi-disciplinary team and the public using techniques and adaptations designed to maximise understanding

S16: Respond to signs of discomfort, lack of understanding or inability to give informed consent

S17: Use critical reflection to evaluate, identify and meet own learning and development needs to improve the quality and outcomes of patient care

S18: Support the learning, development and appraisal of others

S19: Act as a role model and mentor for others

S20: Gather, evaluate and act on patient and service feedback to reflect on and improve practice

S21: Participate in and support others in clinical governance and other quality improvement activities using the reflective cycle

S22: Identify, assess and manage risk to self and others in the workplace and make appropriate decisions

S23: Use infection prevention and control equipment and techniques in line with identified risks

S24: Undertake ocular examination using the correct equipment, techniques and procedures to inform clinical decision making, including management of medicines within individual scope of practice

S25: Engage with developments in research, including through the critical appraisal of relevant and up-to-date evidence, to inform personal clinical decision-making and to improve quality of care

S26: Engage with technological advances in eye health to enhance patient outcomes and service delivery

S27: Analyse visual function from a range of diagnostic sources and use data to devise a clinical management plan in line with scope of practice

S28: Act as a first point of contact for patients for their eye health needs by investigating, diagnosing and managing individuals' functional and developmental visual conditions

S29: Complete informed clinical assessments of individual patients' need and use this to dispense, fit and advise on the safe and effective use of spectacles, low-vision aids and other ophthalmic appliances

S30: Make informed decisions on the treatment and management of ocular abnormalities and disease

S31: Identify patients' conditions and their need for medical referral in a timely way

S32: Use common ophthalmic drugs to facilitate optometric examination

S33: Manage a patient caseload and associated resources

S34: Provide clinical leadership within their role and scope of practice

S35: Take appropriate action in response to adverse situations and emergencies arising in the workplace

S36: Engage with population and public health initiatives, using population data and trends to inform practice and service delivery

Behaviours

B1: Treat people with dignity and respect.

B2: Show discretion and empathy for those you work with

B3: Be adaptable, reliable and committed

B4: Be caring and compassionate

B5: Show resilience and self-awareness

B6: Show openness and integrity at all times

Duty	OTJ days
D1: Practice according to the legal, ethical and professional standards for optometry and in line with scope of own practice and limits of competence	10
D2: Work as part of the multi-disciplinary optical team to provide evidence-based and patient-centred care	10
D3: Use verbal and non-verbal communication methods and techniques to overcome barriers and meet individuals' preferences, needs and desired outcomes	10
D4: Obtain, record and store information related to individuals within your care, keeping information secure and sharing correctly	10
D5: Select and conduct diagnostic tests, clinical investigations and assessments of eye health using the correct specialist equipment and techniques	10
D6: Analyse and interpret the results of diagnostic tests, clinical investigations and assessments of eye health to determine an appropriate optical management plan	10
D7: Issue a corrective prescription and dispense optical devices and drugs	10
D8: Promote and protect the health of individuals, providing preventative information, advice and guidance on the potential development of future eye disease and systemic disease	10
D9: Maintain the health, safety and security of yourself and others in the workplace by identifying risks and taking appropriate action to keep people safe	10
D10: Maintain and further develop your own skills and knowledge and contribute to the development of others by participating in appraisal and continuing education and training (cet)	10
D11: Participate in clinical governance and quality improvement activities, including audit and service evaluation	10
D12: Provide leadership and supervision for others in the multidisciplinary optical team	10

Qualification	Basis for mandation
Master of Optometry Level: 7 (integrated degree) Type: Type 1 Qualification that accredits occupational competence Ofqual regulated: No Awarding bodies	Regulatory Requirement

Entry requirements

Employers and universities will typically require applicants to have maths and a science A-level.

Professional recognition

Professional body	Level	Full or partial recognition	What further requirements are needed for full recognition
General Optical Council	Optometrist	Full	—

Progression routes

No progression routes specified